Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division Akron-Summit County Public Library

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The roller polo revival of 1919-1920 featured players Howdy Force and Roland Cioni. Akron Beacon Journal*, August 29, 1919.*

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Akron Joins the Roller Polo "Craze"

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

While using the 1906 *Akron Beacon Journal* index recently, I was surprised to find several pages devoted to citations for articles about college, semi-professional, and professional roller polo. Roller polo, also known as "roller hockey," "rink hockey," "hardball hockey," or "quad hockey," is a sport that has been around since the late nineteenth century. Played like hockey but on quad roller skates and with a hard rubber ball rather than a puck, it has gone through several periods of popularity.

The first recorded hardball roller hockey game was played in 1878 in London, England. It was introduced to the United States in 1882 with the National Roller Polo League in Dayton, Ohio, and the team there soon earned a championship. A February 13, 1883 article in the Topeka, Kansas *Daily Commonwealth* reported that Topeka's newly formed polo club had been practicing, adopted a "nobby uniform" and "hoped before the season is over, to have the champions of the league, from Dayton, Ohio, here to give them a game."

The sport enjoyed growing popularity in the early 1900s, both nationally and locally, as roller skating in general was enjoying a resurgence. Silent film stars Stan Laurel and Charlie Chaplin reportedly enjoyed playing the game during this time, and a search of the *Akron Beacon Journal* reveals a huge spike in articles about the sport from 1905-1908.

Beacon articles throughout the summer and fall of 1905 reported on the growth of the sport. In July, the roller skating rink at Silver Lake was reportedly "drawing well" and at least two new rinks were to be built during the winter. The Akron Amusement Company was building an $8000 rink, to be called Perkins Park auditorium, on the corner of Exchange and Bowery and hoped to get a team together, as several nearby towns had done.

In September and October, representatives from Akron, Canton, Warren, Youngstown, Niles, Sharon, Newcastle, Allegheny, and Beaver Falls began meeting at the Park Hotel in Warren to discuss the formation a league for eastern Ohio teams. As a result, the third professional

ROLLER POLO

Fascinating Game to be Played Here Next Winter.

Among the new sports for next winter that will probably be taken up with a vim by athletes here is roller polo. As there will probably be one or two skating rinks here, the chances for getting up a team will be good.

Akron Beacon Journal, *June 16, 1905.*

league of its kind in the United States, the Interstate Roller Polo League, was formed, with the Akron Amusement Company getting the local franchise. Later articles reported that the league would first recruit players in the west, "where roller skating and polo have long been in vogue," employ traveling referees, schedule four games per week for each team, and that visiting teams would wear a regulation uniform of gray. On October 17, the *Beacon* reported that Akron's five-man team was set and ready to begin the season on November 6. Akron's team won that first game, defeating Youngstown by a score of 8 goals to 3, and the November 7 paper offered a detailed account of both how the game is played and how well it was received. "Judging by the interest with which the spectators watched each play and the enthusiastic applause which rewarded some heady, difficult feat accomplished by a player, the crowd enjoyed the sport."

As the pros continued to play, locals began taking up the sport, and amateurs formed a team at Perkins Park auditorium in December 1905. One young man, however, took "the skating rink craze" a bit too far. As the January 9, 1906 *Beacon* reported, James McGarry "never caused his parents much trouble until the skating rink fever got him going." When McGarry failed to come home one Friday night, his father checked for him at local rinks first then traveled to Youngstown, where he learned that his son was at a rink in Sharon, Pennsylvania. After locating the boy and bringing him back to Akron, he charged his son with taking an overcoat, and the younger McGarry was sentenced to the workhouse on a charge of petit larceny.

In late 1906, E. F. Menard, manager of the East Market Street rink, sought to destroy the Perkins Park rink by forming a rival league, the National Roller Polo League. The new league was backed by a syndicate of capitalists, and competition for crowds, players and entire teams soon started. Leagues in other areas offered higher salaries. As Frenchman Fred Jean told the *Beacon* in October 1907 after taking a position to manage a team in New Britain, Connecticut, "I wanted to play in Akron…but I am offered more money here."

By September 1908, the Interstate League was "in a shaky condition," and it appears to have disbanded by the end of 1909. Locally, similar sports seemed to ebb and flow. In 1916, an amateur "roller hockey" club formed, which played with a "playground ball." There was a brief local resurgence of roller polo a few years later. Lloyd Lowther, manager of the Summit Beach Park rink, sought to revive the sport by forming a factory league "in which all of the larger industrial companies will be represented by a team." For two seasons between 1919 and 1920, the Akron Industrial League teams from Firestone, Goodrich, Miller Rubber Company, International Harvester, Kelly-Springfield, and Geo. S. Dales repeatedly battled each other. But in December 1920, the league broke up "due to lack of support."

While roller polo was a demonstration sport in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona and continues to enjoy popularity in several Latin countries, which have dominated the sport since the 1940s, it never caught on here as it did in other areas within and outside of the United States. In Akron, the love of roller polo grew quickly, but seems to have faded just as fast.

THE AKRON TEAM WON ITS FIRST GAME

Roller Polo Season Opened at Perkins Park Rink Monday Evening.

GAME WAS EXCITING

Youngstown Aggregation Was Outclassed by Local Men, However.

Akron Beacon Journal, *November 7, 1905.*

Akron Beacon Journal, *May 27, 2005*.

Getting to Know...Polly Paffilas

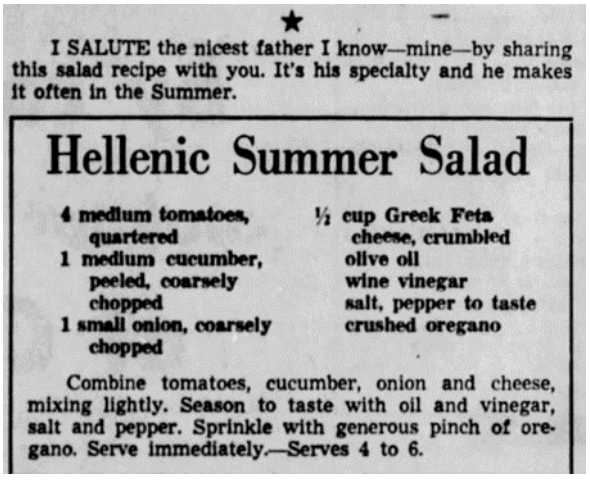
by Barbara Leden, Public Service Assistant

To those who grew up around Akron, Polly Paffilas may have been instrumental in providing ideas for many a scrumptious meal. Polly was a news reporter, columnist and food writer for the *Akron Beacon Journal* from the late 1940s to 1987. During this time, she wrote approximately 5,000 recipes for her newspaper column.

Pauline Katherine Paffilas was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia on August 8, 1921. She was the daughter of Steve and Catherine Chamberlain Paffilas, Greek immigrants who arrived in the early 1900s. She attended Crosby Elementary School and graduated from West High School. Her newspaper career began during World War II, when there was a shortage of staff in the newsroom due to the war. She started from the ground up as a temporary file clerk and she tried to learn every job at the newspaper, even operating the elevator. She interviewed many distinguished personalities including Babe Ruth and President Harry Truman. In 1983, she received the John S. Knight Award for service to the community through journalism. Many at the newspaper considered her tough and demanding, but warm-hearted.

Her recipes ranged, as the saying goes, "from soup to nuts," and sometimes reflected the cultural outlook of the era. Many were submitted by local residents and reviewed for submission into her column. She also wrote another column titled "About Town," which highlighted community and social topics. Polly retired in June 1987 with 45 years at the newspaper. She passed away on May 26, 2005, and according to the *Akron Beacon Journal*, she was known as "one of the grand dames of journalism."

Polly Paffilas' many recipes are available in Special Collections. A database available on our website is an index to over 5,000 recipes printed in the *Akron Beacon Journal*. The database can be searched by keyword, ingredient, name, category, and date. Many of the recipes are steeped in the ethnic traditions of the people who migrated to Akron. To get copies of the actual recipes contained in the index, contact Special Collections and we will be happy to retrieve the information.



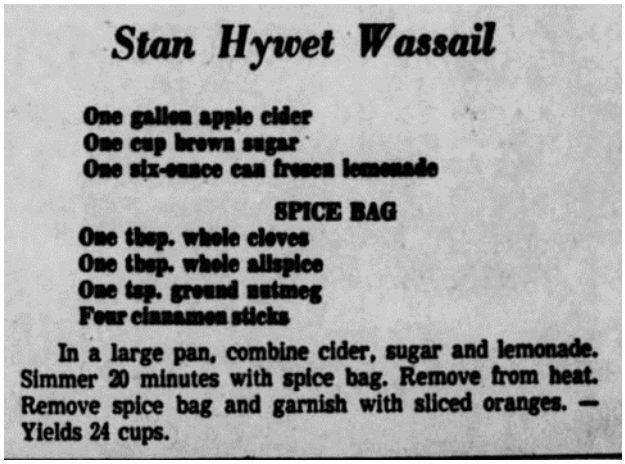
I SALUTE the nicest father I know—mine—by sharing this salad recipe with you. It's his specialty and he makes it often in the Summer.

Hellenic Summer Salad

4 medium tomatoes, quartered
1 medium cucumber, peeled, coarsely chopped
1 small onion, coarsely chopped
½ cup Greek Feta cheese, crumbled
olive oil
wine vinegar
salt, pepper to taste
crushed oregano

Combine tomatoes, cucumber, onion and cheese, mixing lightly. Season to taste with oil and vinegar, salt and pepper. Sprinkle with generous pinch of oregano. Serve immediately.—Serves 4 to 6.

Akron Beacon Journal, *June 18, 1964.*



Stan Hywet Wassail

One gallon apple cider
One cup brown sugar
One six-ounce can frozen lemonade

SPICE BAG
One tbsp. whole cloves
One tbsp. whole allspice
One tsp. ground nutmeg
Four cinnamon sticks

In a large pan, combine cider, sugar and lemonade. Simmer 20 minutes with spice bag. Remove from heat. Remove spice bag and garnish with sliced oranges. — Yields 24 cups.

Akron Beacon Journal, *December 22, 1974.*

Polly was proud of her Greek heritage and included several Greek recipes in her columns. She also made sure to record many recipes of local interest.

Cuyahoga County Online Genealogy Resources

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

Map of Cuyahoga County, Ohio *(Philadelphia: S. H. Matthews, 1858). Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.*

Online genealogy resources covering Cuyahoga County are plentiful but scattered. This article pulls websites and databases together in one helpful guide.

The Cleveland Public Library's (CPL) News Index and Necrology File allows you to search for obituary dates and news articles from Cleveland newspapers. The Necrology File indexes death notices (1833-1975), and the News Index cites articles (1976-2014). These databases can be searched together or individually. Links to CPL's genealogy guides and databases share a web page. To use databases from home, Ohio residents can register online for a free Cleveland Public Library Ecard. Photos, atlases, Cleveland high school yearbooks, newspapers and other publications can be found in the Cleveland Public Library Digital Gallery. Within the gallery, Cleveland History includes some city directories from the early 1800s to 1975. It also includes the Cleveland Blue Books (social directories), 1885-1929.

The Cuyahoga County Probate Court Case Index includes marriages, wills, estates, and guardianships from about 1810-present. However, the early records are all designated with the year "1900" in the database – not with the year of the record, so you need to note case number, journal volume, and page of the record you wish to request. You can browse the Cuyahoga County Probate Records, 1813-1932 on FamilySearch, but they have not yet been indexed. Western Reserve Historical Society's Genealogy Index contains more than 320,000 entries from various sources, such as funeral home and cemetery indexes, photographs, Bible records, biography indexes, and Jewish marriage and death notices. Church records from several counties (including Medina and Portage) are also in the database.

The Cleveland District Round Table is a group comprised of the leadership of genealogical societies in a five-county district including Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina. It provides access to several records and indexes on its website—cemetery, birth corrections, clergy directory, and early wills and estates. The East Cuyahoga County Genealogical Society has transcribed over 340,000 City of Cleveland Cemetery interment registers from city-owned cemeteries. There is a cumulative index, but you can also view each cemetery separately. Clicking on a name opens an image of the actual burial register. These interment records are also available through FamilySearch. The Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society has an index of Cuyahoga County soldier burials from 1914-1938. Some widows and mothers are included. Several genealogy resources are available from the Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland: obituary indexes, Mayfield Cemetery markers, ceramic and etched headstone photos, and more. The Ceramic Grave Photo Database contains approximately 3,400 photographs.

The Cuyahoga County Archives (part of the Department of Public Works) provides a link to a PDF index of Coroner's Case Files 1833-1900 on its list of records of interest. The archives also contributed some incomplete birth and death indexes to the USGenWeb Cuyahoga County page: births 1881-1884, 1887-1889 (with a few from the early 1900s) and deaths 1867-1890. An index to graves of military veterans is located on the Cuyahoga County Recorder's website.

For articles and photographs about Cleveland and its people, Case Western Reserve University offers the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History. The Cleveland Memory Project of Cleveland State University contains online collections that exhibit Cleveland's history in images, documents, and audio.

200 Years of Twinsburg

by Barbara Leden, Public Service Assistant

While many people associate Twinsburg with the annual celebration of "Twins Day," the community is rich in other local history. The area is comprised of three communities—the City of Twinsburg, Twinsburg Township, and the village of Reminderville—all interconnected by a shared history. The area was mostly rural until the mid-1900s when industry started to develop. Since Twinsburg was a township at the time, it was unincorporated and unable to support industrial growth or collect taxes from industries. It became necessary for part of the community to split off and incorporate so that it was structured to handle the new industrial environment.

TWINSBURG PLANS BIG CENTENNIAL

TWINSBURG, July 24.—Twinsburg, O., is preparing to celebrate its centennial during the week of August 5. Band concerts, patriotic programs and a pageant of Twinsburg will constitute the major events. Sunday, August 5, will be Devotional day, with appropriate services. It is expected that a number of former ministers will be present and participate in the exercises. The three days following—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday—will be devoted largely to reunions of Twinsburg families. During these days there will be many events, among which will be exhibitions of old-time spinning of wool and flax by elderly ladies of the town, and flailing of grain by elderly men. There will be exhibitions of other old-time occupations.

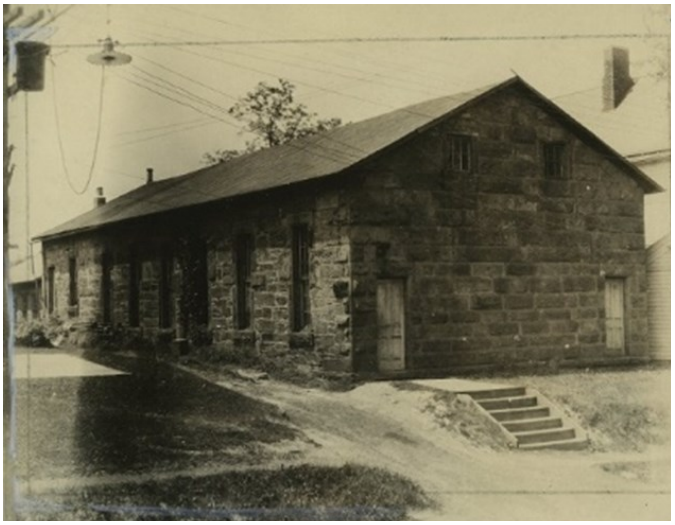
A display of heirlooms will be of great interest. On Wednesday afternoon there will be an educational program, and in the evening a public reception in a large tent in the park in charge of the following committee: Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Herrick of Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Hiland B. Wright of Cleveland, Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Evans of Twinsburg, Mr. and Mrs. Grant J. Straight, South Euclid, Miss Edna Lane and Miss Elizabeth Wagner, both of twinsburg. Thursday, August 9, will be Pioneers' day, and in the afternoon there will be speeches by former townspeople and band music. Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday, there will be the pageant of Twinsburg.

Friday has been set apart as Patriotic day, and it is the hope of the committee that Governor Cox will consent to be present and make an address.

On July 24, 1917, the Akron Beacon Journal *highlighted the excitement and festivities surrounding Twinsburg's centennial.*

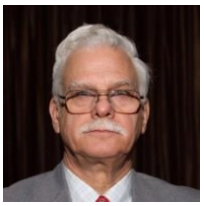
In the spring of 1817, one of the first settlers, Ethan Alling, came from Connecticut to clear land and establish a homestead. *History of Twinsburg* by the Twinsburg Historical Society details his account of the area at the time. Alling states, "we followed a line of marked trees, called Shagrin road, untill we came to the line of Tract No. 2……. which Esq'r Mills said was the center of the Town.—there we sat down under a beach site tree, which spot is now the exact S.E. corner of the Public Square." Soon after, twins Moses and Aaron Wilcox donated six acres of land for the public square. Their condition was that the area would be named in their honor, and so the name Twinsburg was chosen. Another early settler, Samuel Bissell, was instrumental in promoting religion and education. In 1867, after the original school fell into disrepair, he built the "Old Stone School" or the "Twinsburg Institute." The building still stands and is now the home of the Twinsburg Historical Society.

The area is now preparing to celebrate its bicentennial with a Founder's Day on July 22nd on the Twinsburg Public Square, and commemorative events will continue for the rest of the year. Visit Twinsburg200.com for event listings, a historical timeline, stories, and picture gallery. Also included is a list of corrections to *Twinsburg, Ohio: 1817-1917,* the book published in honor of the township's first hundred years. For those who love to explore history, the website is a compelling journey into the past.



Old Stone School, or the Twinsburg Institute. From the Akron Times-Press*, July 17, 1925.*

Join Us for "Discovering Your Military Ancestors" on August 5



Eric Johnson

Michael Strauss

Special Collections, in conjunction with the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, is pleased to present "Discovering Your Military Ancestors," featuring Eric Johnson and Michael Strauss, on Saturday, August 5, 9:30 am-4:00 pm in the Main Library Auditorium. To see presenter biographies, lecture descriptions, and complete schedule for the day, see the program flyer on our Classes and Events web page.

The program is free and open to the public, and parking is free in the High-Market Parking Deck. To register or for more information, contact the Special Collections Division at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Summit County OGS Events

For more information, see http://summitogs.org.

Using DNA Testing in Genealogical Research
Presented by Julie Wilson
Saturday, July 15
1:30-3:30 pm
Main Library, Meeting Room 2AB

English and Welsh Research - Part 1
Presented by Liz Pearson
Saturday, September 16
1:30-3:30 pm
Main Library, Meeting Room 2AB

Special Collections Class Schedule

The Special Collections Division offers several recurring genealogy classes to help you with your family research. All classes are free of charge and open to the general public. **Registration is required for all classes held at Main Library. Please register by calling us at 330-643-9030 or emailing us at speccollections@akronlibrary.org.**

Getting Started in Family History
Join us for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. This class includes an overview of genealogical sources available at the Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research.
Saturday, July 8, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB

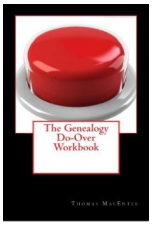
Getting Started in African American Genealogy
Do you want to trace your African American family tree? Not sure how or where to begin? The Special Collections Division presents a two-hour session for genealogy beginners who have a specific interest in African American ancestral research.
Saturday, July 22, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB

Using Historical Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research
From births to obituaries, estate notices to news stories, newspapers can fill in important details and help to paint a fuller picture of our ancestors' lives. This class will take a look at accessing newspaper content through a variety of resources.
Saturday, September 9, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 1

Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research
Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource—and it's available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This class will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches.
Saturday, September 30, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

New Books

Genealogy software is a popular and useful way of organizing research, and understanding its features is important. In *Getting the Most Out of RootsMagic 7,* Bruce Buzbee tackles the ins and outs of one of the leading software programs.



Experienced genealogists often find that the work they did as beginners needs attention. In *The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook*, Thomas MacEntee offers ideas for revisiting old research after you've gained stronger, better skills.

For more new books, see our New Books page on the Special Collections website.

Late Night at the Library September 15

Once again, the Special Collections Division and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society are teaming up for Late Night at the Library on Friday, September 15, 6:30-10:30 pm. Late Night is an annual after-hours genealogy event when Main Library reopens for genealogists. Mingle with fellow researchers while uncovering your family history, take a tour of Special Collections, or sit in on a short "Getting Started" session. Light refreshments and door prizes will be provided, and parking is free for those entering the parking deck after 6 pm. For more information, contact us at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org. No registration is required for this event.

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

William Beck for reproductions of historical photos of the Semonin family.

Charles and Jean Blankenship for Summit County atlas, 1874 and *Cram's Atlas of the World*, 1900.

Joann Caravito for genealogy periodicals and books.

Robert A. Dill for photo of the Tiffany stained glass window of the former St. Paul's Episcopal Church on East Market St., last occupied by the University of Akron.

Greg Gillespie for genealogy books and United States history book.

Dennis Jacob for digital images of Firestone Park Prime Timers collection of color slides.

Nancy McFernan for memoirs of her grandfather Homer Dulabahn.

Edna McNellis for McNellis-Callahan family histories.

Carole Meyers for O'Neil's children's menus, *Dilly Dally Sally* (Saalfield Publishing Co.), Happy Birthday booklet from Kaase's, Barnhill's menu, and Nick Anthe's restaurant glass.

Roger Rhoads for genealogy books about Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Robert Smith for 90 original pieces of World War I-era sheet music.

Karen Stadler for postcards of Everett covered bridge and Sawyerwood, 1959 Ellet class reunion photo, 1970 Green High School class reunion booklet, and booklet about Justus, Ohio.

Anna Viscione for *Fadel's Garden and the Watch and the Fairytale* by Anna Viscione.

A crowd in the Wisteria dance hall at Summit Beach Amusement Park during a Goodyear Aircraft Company picnic, August 20, 1943. From the General Photograph Collection, Summit Memory.

The Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division
is located on the third floor
of the Main Library.

Special Collections
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High St.
Akron, Ohio 44326

330-643-9030

email:
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

website:
www.akronlibrary.org/specialcollections

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Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44326